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one or more instructions for accepting signals from the user input device to define a parameter of an experiment;  
one or more instructions for transferring the parameter to the network;  
one or more instructions for receiving experiment results from the network, wherein the experiment results include results from an experiment using the parameter; and  
displaying the experiment results on the display device.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-25 have been canceled. Claims 26-34 remain pending.

Applicants' new claims are directed to a "user interface to accept laboratory experiment information for control of a laboratory experiment"(Claim 26). The remaining independent claims, 32, 33, and 34 are directed to "a method for displaying laboratory experiment information"(Claims 32 and 33) and a "computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for a method to accept laboratory experiment information"(Claim 34).

The elements of these claims recite accepting signals from a user input device to define a parameter of an experiment. The parameter is then transferred over a network wherein it is used to perform an experiment. Results from the experiment are returned for display(Claims 26 and 34). Another aspect of the claims displays steps of "set-up and execution of an experiment" or displays other information relating to performance of an experiment.

In short, these claimed aspects relate to use of a computer network to specify, and then review, an experiment, and experiment results.

The claimed invention is not disclosed in, nor made obvious in view of, the prior art.

Balaban is directed to a "query system for a gene expression database." See, Balaban abstract. Thus, Balaban deals with merely interrogating a database and

does not disclose specification of experiments, much less a "parameter" that is specified by a user, transferred over a network and used to perform an experiment from which results are returned as recited by Claims 26 and 34. Similarly, Lincoln is a "computerized storage and retrieval system for genetic information and related annotated information." Thus, neither Balaban nor Lincoln disclose, or even suggest, obtaining the definition of an experiment (e.g., a "parameter"), transferring the definition over a network, and using the definition to conduct an experiment variously recited in the claims.


Kris discusses "apparatus and methods useful for concurrently performing...assays." Kris does not discuss the use of a computer, database, or network in connection with performing experiments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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